

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

(A) receive, via a first remote user client computer device of a plurality of remote user client computer devices, a first input from a first user associated with the first remote user client computer device, said first input comprising first set of parcel specifications for a first parcel, wherein the shipping management computer system is operable to associate a first user-specific origin identifier with the first user, wherein the first user accesses the shipping management computer system via a global communications network via the first remote user client computer device, wherein the first remote user client computer device is adapted for communication via the global communications network, and wherein the first set of parcel specifications comprises a first set of physical dimensions of the first parcel and a first physical weight of the first parcel; and

(B) in response to the first input:

(1) apply a respective set of carrier-specific dimensional weight calculation rules, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, to the first set of parcel specifications to calculate a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight according to the first set of physical dimensions of the first parcel in view of the first physical weight of the first parcel; and

(2) apply a respective set of carrier-specific billable weight rules, for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers, to the first set of parcel specifications to determine a respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is selected from a group consisting of: the physical weight of the first parcel,

the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier calculated in step (B)(1), a respective carrier-specific oversize weight of the first parcel, and a respective carrier-specific letter weight.

2. (Previously Presented) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

(A) receive, via a first remote user client computer device of a plurality of remote user client computer devices, a first input from a first user associated with the first remote user client computer device, said first input comprising a first set of parcel specifications for a first parcel to be shipped by the first user, wherein the shipping management computer system is operable to associate a first user-specific origin identifier with the first user, wherein the first user accesses the shipping management computer system [[over]] via a global communications network via the first remote user client computer device, wherein the first remote user client computer device is adapted for communication via the global communications network, and wherein the first set of parcel specifications comprises a first set of physical dimensions of the first parcel and a first physical weight of the first parcel;

(B) in response to a first request by the first user of the plurality of users to ship the first parcel, calculate, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers, a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel according to the first set of parcel specifications for the first parcel, according to a respective set of dimensional weight calculations rules for the respective carrier, and according to the first set of physical dimensions of the first parcel in view of the first physical weight of the first parcel; and

(C) in response to the request by the first user to ship the first parcel:

(1) identify each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers that would support shipping the first parcel according to the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier

calculated in Step (B), and according to a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the respective carrier; and

(2) apply a respective set of carrier-specific billable weight rules, for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers, to the first set of parcel specifications to determine a respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is selected from a group consisting of: the physical weight of the first parcel, the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier calculated in step (B), a respective carrier-specific oversize weight of the first parcel, and a respective carrier-specific letter weight.

3. (Previously Presented) A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system comprising at least one computer device, wherein said shipping management computer system is programmed to:

(A) receive, via a first remote user client computer device of a plurality of remote user client computer devices, a first input from a first user associated with the first remote user client computer device, said first input comprising a first set of parcel specifications for a first parcel, wherein the shipping management computer system is operable to associate a first user-specific origin identifier with the first user, wherein the first user accesses the shipping management computer system via a global communications network via the first remote user client computer device, wherein the first remote user client computer device is adapted for communication via the global communications network, and wherein the first set of parcel specifications comprises a first set of physical dimensions of the first parcel and a first physical weight of the first parcel; and

(B) in response to a first request by the first user of the plurality of users to ship the first parcel, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers:

(1) calculate a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight for the first parcel according to the first set of parcel specifications and according

to a respective set of dimensional weight calculation rules for the respective carrier, wherein each respective carrier-specific dimensional weight is calculated according to the first set of physical dimensions of the first parcel in view of the first physical weight of the first parcel;

(2) determine whether the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) for the respective carrier exceeds a corresponding respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the respective carrier; and

(3) in response to determining that the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) does not exceed the corresponding respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the respective carrier, designate the respective carrier as a respective supporting carrier for shipping the first parcel.

4. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 3, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

(C) apply a respective set of carrier-specific billable weight rules, for each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers, to the first set of parcel specifications to determine a respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is selected, according to the respective set of carrier-specific billable weight rules, from a group consisting of: the physical weight of the first parcel, the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier calculated in step (B)(1), a respective carrier-specific oversize weight of the first parcel, and a respective carrier-specific letter weight.

5. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 4, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

(D) for each respective delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by each respective supporting carrier, calculate a respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel.

6. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 5, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

(E) receive, via a second remote user client computer device of the plurality of remote user client computer devices, a second input from a second user associated with the second remote user client computer device of a second set of parcel specifications for a second parcel, wherein the shipping management computer system is operable to associate a second user-specific origin identifier with the second user, wherein the second user accesses the shipping management computer system via the global communications network via the second remote-user client computer device, wherein the second remote user client computer device is adapted for communication via the global communications network, and wherein the second set of parcel specifications comprises a second set of physical dimensions of the second parcel and a second physical weight of the second parcel; and

(F) in response to a second request by the second user of the plurality of users to ship the second parcel, for each respective carrier of a plurality of carriers:

(1) calculate a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the second parcel according to the second set of parcel specifications, according to a respective set of dimensional weight calculation rules for the respective carrier, and according to the second set of physical dimensions of the second parcel in view of the second physical weight of the second parcel;

(2) determine whether the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the second parcel calculated in Step (F)(1) for the respective carrier exceeds a corresponding respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the respective carrier; and

(3) in response to determining that the respective carrier specific dimensional weight of the second parcel calculated in Step (F)(1) does not exceed the corresponding respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the respective carrier, designate the respective carrier as a respective supporting carrier.

7. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 5, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

(E) generate an online comparison display of the respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rates for shipping the first parcel to a first display monitor configured with the first remote user client computer device of the particular respective user.

Claims 8-57 (Cancelled).

58. (Previously Presented) A method, using a computer system, for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

(A) receiving, via a first remote user client computer device of a plurality of remote user client computer devices, a first input, said first input comprising a first set of parcel specifications for a first parcel to be shipped by a first user, wherein the first set of parcel specifications comprises a first set of physical specifications about the first parcel, and wherein the first set of physical specifications about the first parcel is selected from a group consisting of:

(1) a first set of physical dimensions of the first parcel and a first physical weight of the first parcel, and

(2) a first type of parcel and the first physical weight of the first parcel; and

(B) in response to the first input, for a first carrier of a plurality of carriers:

(1) calculating a first carrier-specific dimensional weight according to a first set of carrier-specific dimensional weight calculation rules, in view of the first set of physical specifications about the first parcel; and

(2) determining a first carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the first carrier, wherein the first carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the first carrier is selected, according to a first set of carrier-specific billable weight rules, from a group consisting of: the physical weight of the first parcel, the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the first carrier calculated in Step (B)(1), a first carrier-specific oversize weight of the first parcel, and a first carrier-specific letter weight.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 58, said method further comprising:

(C) in response to the first input, for a second carrier of the plurality of carriers:

(1) calculating a second carrier-specific dimensional weight according to a second set of carrier-specific dimensional weight calculation rules, in view of the first set of physical specifications about the first parcel; and

(2) determining a second carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the second carrier, wherein the second carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the second carrier is selected, according to a second set of carrier-specific billable weight rules, from a group consisting of: the physical weight of the first parcel, the second carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the second carrier calculated in Step (C)(1), a second carrier-specific oversize weight of the first parcel, and a second carrier-specific letter weight.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 58, said method further comprising:

(C) determining whether the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) for the first carrier exceeds a corresponding first carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the first carrier; and

(D) in response to determining that the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) does not exceed the corresponding first carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the first carrier, designating the first carrier as a first supporting carrier for shipping the first parcel.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 59, said method further comprising:

(D) determining whether the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) for the first carrier exceeds a corresponding first carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the first carrier;

(E) in response to determining that the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) does not exceed the corresponding first carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the first carrier, designating the first carrier as a first supporting carrier for shipping the first parcel;

(F) determining whether the second carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (C)(1) for the second carrier exceeds a corresponding second carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the second carrier; and

(G) in response to determining that the second carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (C)(1) does not exceed the corresponding second carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the second carrier, designating the second carrier as a second supporting carrier for shipping the first parcel.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 58, wherein the first carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the first carrier is the physical weight of the first parcel.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58, wherein the first carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the first carrier is the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the first carrier calculated in Step (B)(1).

64. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58, wherein the first carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the first carrier is the first carrier-specific oversize weight of the first parcel.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58, wherein the first carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the first carrier is the first carrier-specific letter weight.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the second carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the second carrier is the physical weight of the first parcel.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 59, wherein the second carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the second carrier is the second carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the second carrier calculated in Step (C)(1).

68. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 59, wherein the second carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the second carrier is the second carrier-specific oversize weight of the first parcel.

69. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 59, wherein the second carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the second carrier is the second carrier-specific letter weight.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 58, said method further comprising:

(C) determining whether the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) for the first carrier exceeds a corresponding first carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the first carrier; and

(D) in response to determining that the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) does not exceed the corresponding first carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the first carrier, for each respective delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by the first carrier: calculating a respective service-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 70, said method further comprising

(E) generating an online comparison display of each respective service-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel calculated in Step (D) to a first display monitor operable with the first remote user client computer device.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 59, said method further comprising:

(D) determining whether the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) for the first carrier exceeds a corresponding first carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the first carrier;

(E) in response to determining that the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (B)(1) does not exceed the corresponding first carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the first carrier, for each respective delivery service of a plurality of delivery services

offered by the first carrier, calculating a first respective service-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel;

(F) determining whether the second carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (C)(1) for the second carrier exceeds a corresponding second carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the second carrier; and

(G) in response to determining that the second carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel calculated in Step (C)(1) does not exceed the corresponding second carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the second carrier, for each respective delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by the second carrier, calculating a second respective service-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 72, said method further comprising:

(H) generating an online comparison display to a first display monitor operable with the first remote user client computer device, wherein said online comparison display comprises an indication of each first respective service-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel calculated in Step (E) and an indication of each second respective service-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel calculated in Step (G).

74. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 1, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is the physical weight of the first parcel.

75. (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 1, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the first carrier calculated in Step (B)(1).

76. (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 1, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is the first carrier-specific oversize weight of the first parcel.

77. (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 1, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is the first carrier-specific letter weight.

78. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 1, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

(C) identify each respective carrier of the plurality of carriers that would support shipping the first parcel according to the respective carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier calculated in Step (B)(1), and according to a respective carrier-specific dimensional weight limitation for the respective carrier;

(D)) for each respective carrier that would support shipping the first parcel, for each respective delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by the respective carrier, calculate a respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel using the respective carrier-specific billable weight determined for the respective carrier in Step (B)(2); and

(E) generate an online comparison display to a first display monitor operable with the first remote user client computer device, wherein said online comparison display comprises an indication of each respective service-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel calculated in Step (D).

79. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 2, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is the physical weight of the first parcel.

80. (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 2, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the

respective carrier is the first carrier-specific dimensional weight of the first parcel for the first carrier calculated in Step (B)(1).

81. (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 2, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is the first carrier-specific oversize weight of the first parcel.

82. (Withdrawn) The shipping management computer system of Claim 2, wherein the respective carrier-specific billable weight of the first parcel for the respective carrier is the first carrier-specific letter weight.

83. (Previously Presented) The shipping management computer system of Claim 2, said shipping management computer system further programmed to:

(D) for each respective carrier identified in Step (C)(1) that would support shipping the first parcel, for each respective delivery service of a plurality of delivery services offered by the respective carrier, calculate a respective service-specific, carrier-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel using the respective carrier-specific billable weight determined for the respective carrier in Step (C)(2); and

(E) generate an online comparison display to a first display monitor operable with the first remote user client computer device, wherein said online comparison display comprises an indication of each respective service-specific shipping rate for shipping the first parcel calculated in Step (D).